

1585

The Seuerall Factes of Witch-Crafte, Approoued and Laid to the Charge of Margaret Harkett, of the Towne of Stanmore, in the Countie of Middlesex, for the Which She Was Arraigned and Condemned at the Sessions House, Before Her Maisties Iustices the 17. of February, and Executed for the Same at Tyborne This 19. of February. 1585

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(.)



ON VVensday beeing  
 the seventh day of Fe-  
 bruary last past Anno.  
 1585. *Margaret Harket*  
 of the Towne of Stan-  
 more, in the Countie of Middlesex wid-  
 dowe about threescore yeeres of age, was  
 arraigned, examined, found guiltie and

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# A notable Witch

condemned at the Sessions of Gaole deli-  
uery, for the Cittye of London and  
Middlesex: at the Sessions house in the  
olde Wallie, where by the senerall othes  
of sundrie honest persons, these matters  
were prooued, videlizet. That she came  
to a Close in the same Towne of Stan-  
more, belonging to one Ioane Frynde,  
whose Pease being ripe and readie to  
gather, she (without the consent of the  
said Ioane Frind or any other household)  
did gather a Basket full, and filled her  
Aprone also with the sayd Pease, and  
when she was ready to depart, this  
Ioane Frind who ought the Close came,  
and demaunded why she dyd gather  
those pease without leaue, wherefore  
she willed her to deliuer her the pease  
that were in her basket, and those that  
were in her lappe she would giue her.

But this vngodly woman did flynge  
the pease downe on the ground, sayinge,  
if you make so muche a doo for a fewe  
pease, take them al, the next yeere I will  
haue enoughe of my owne, and you shal  
haue selue enoughe. So she curssed the  
same

same ground and stamped on it & went  
her wayes, & neuer since that tyme, that  
the women could haue any pease growe  
in her ground or any other Cozne wold  
growe in the same place.

William Fryndes wife of the sayd  
Towne of Stanmore, brought home a  
Childe to Nurse from Westminster  
where the Parents dwelt: who brought  
the Child and shewed it to her husband,  
but hee sayd vnlesse hee knewe the Pa-  
rentes of the Childe, hee would not suf-  
fer her to keepe it: this Witche being  
at her house the same time, obwinge her  
a grudge, sayd, what will you do with a  
Nurse Childe, you will but sterue it,  
sure I will warrant you the Child shall  
not prosper: and the Childe shortly af-  
ter did fall sicke, and consumed to the  
death in most straunge manner, so that  
in thre weekes followinge the Childe  
died, and was consumed and parched  
lyke a greene lease that had bene han-  
ged to drye in a Chimney.

She came to the house of one Willi-  
am Goodwinne of the same Towne



# A notable Witch

for yeast, the Seruauntes denyed that there was any in the house: notwithstanding, the Stande was newe filled, and the seruauntes were lothe to take of the yeast. Whereat this Witch said you shall haue lesse, and so went her wayes, and the next day following, though none of the house did drawe out any drinke out of the same Stande, yet was it found dry without drinke or yeast, except a fewe hard dreyed dregges.

She came thether also another time for Datemeale, and they would giue her none: And forthwith a Lambe (which was kept in the same house) beeing in the roome where the Witch was: fell downe and dyed presently.

She came into a Gentlemans ground called Maister Mashe of Stanmore, where shee was stealing of Wood, and the Bailly takinge her With the manour, made her to leaue it behinde her: and gaue her two or thre small blowes ouer the Backe not hurtinge her: whereat shee sayd hee should repent it, and so she went her wayes. Shortly after this

Bailie

Wailie fell into a franzinesse, so that hee became starcke madde, beeing bound and chayned in his bedde: could get no remedie, untill it pleased God that this witch came home to his house, and at his beds side shee kneeled downe and asked him forgiveness: whereat hee cryed, away with the Witch, bzeake her necke downe staires, for she hath bewitcht me, and God be thanked was after ward restored to his health and wits, and is now very well.

She came to one of her neighbours to borrowe a Horse, knowinge him to haue foure very good indifferent Geldinges, the worst worth foure markes: and he denyed her thereof, but she sayd, she would bee euen with him, and shortly after all his foure Geldinges were dead, and dyed sodainely one after another.

She came to one Iohn Frynde of the age of twenty yeeres, the sonne of Thomas Frynd beeing of the same Towne, and offered him a payer of shooes to sell, her price was ten pence, and he offered her



## A notable VVitch

her 6.pence and would giue her no more.  
Wheremat she was soze bered, because at  
that time she had neede of money : this  
was in the latter ende of Summer, so  
the fellowe thinkinge nothing, went to  
gathering of Beares from of the Tree,  
and vpon a suddaine fell dolone to the  
ground, and did hurte his Coddies with  
the said fall, so that he was constrained  
to keepe in the house. But this VVitch  
did openly make repozte in the Towne,  
that he was burned with a VVhore, and  
that hee came to her and desired to haue  
his pleasure of her : which speeches came  
to the fellowes eare, who a quarter of a  
yeere after he was recouered, did meete  
this VVitch in the Towne : where hee  
asked why she gaue out such lewde spee-  
ches of him, beeing most vniust, deman-  
ding of her, if ener hee spake to her in  
any such sort, but she answered that he  
knew best : then he charged her that hee  
thought his harme came by her meanes,  
I said she, I haue not done with thee  
yet : so hee went about his businesse and  
beeing come home, he complained of  
his

## Executed.

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his backe and his belley, saying assuredly that hee thought she had bewitched him: so his paine encreased more and more, and hee began to growe into a consumption, and wasted away like as the Childe befoze mentioned, like a parched or wethered lease, hanged vp in the smoke of a Chimney, and dyed three monthes after, and befoze he dyed his side did burst, and his guttes and backe bone was rotted in sunder, so that his guttes and bowels beeing rotten did issue forth of his belley: and dyed hereof in most pitifull and greuous manner, the sayd partie taking it vpon his death, that her witch-craft and sozcery was the cause of his death.

After whose death the Tolones men made complaint of her dealinge to the Justice, who commaunded one Maister Norwood a Gentleman in the Tolone to goe search her house: this Gentleman went thether and did searche her house, yet desired the Justice not to apprehend her, vntil there were some further triall made of her. But she promised for theyr searching, she would requite them shortlye



# A notable Witch

lie: and forthwith, the next morninge one of the Gentlemans best milch Kynne, which was worth foure marke beeing well ouer night, was found dead. The Gentleman fearing some greater iniurie by her, dyd then commaunde his seruantes that they should giue her nothinge, if she came thether to craue any thinge, so within two dayes after shee came for butter milke, but they denyed her thereof: and after that they could neuer make Chéese or Butter since.

Then was shee apprehended and brought befoze the Iustice, by whome she was examined, and by him committed to the Gaole of Newgate, where she remained untill the Sessions, helde for Gaole deliuerie of London and Middlesex: And then by twelue honest substantiall men for the causes aforesayd, was founde guiltie and woorthie of death: where shee had Iudgement and was executed accordingly.

## FINIS.